

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for charging for network analysis, comprising:
 - 2 (a) collecting network traffic information utilizing a plurality of agents;
 - 3 (b) consolidating the network traffic information utilizing a plurality of host controllers coupled to the agents;
 - 5 (c) reporting on the network traffic information to a user utilizing a plurality of zone controllers coupled to the host controllers; and
 - 7 (d) determining a reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on a number of at least one of the agents, the host controllers, and the zone controllers.
- 1 2. The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising determining the reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on the number of the agents.
- 1 3. The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising determining the reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on the number of the host controllers.
- 1 4. The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising determining the reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on the number of the zone controllers.
- 1 5. The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising adding additional agents coupled to the host controllers.

- 1 6. The method as recited in claim 5, and further comprising adjusting the
2 reoccurring fee based on the number of additional agents.
- 1 7. The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising charging the user the
2 recurring fee.
- 1 8. The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising charging the user the
2 recurring fee utilizing a network.
- 1 9. A computer program product for charging for network analysis, comprising:
 - 2 (a) computer code for collecting network traffic information utilizing a plurality of
3 agents;
 - 4 (b) computer code for consolidating the network traffic information utilizing a
5 plurality of host controllers coupled to the agents;
 - 6 (c) computer code for reporting on the network traffic information to a user utilizing
7 a plurality of zone controllers coupled to the host controllers; and
 - 8 (d) computer code for determining a reoccurring fee associated with the reporting
9 based on a number of at least one of the agents, the host controllers, and the zone
10 controllers.
- 1 10. The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising
2 computer code for determining the reoccurring fee associated with the reporting
3 based on the number of the agents.
- 1 11. The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising
2 computer code for determining the reoccurring fee associated with the reporting
3 based on the number of the host controllers.

- 1 12. The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising
2 computer code for determining the reoccurring fee associated with the reporting
3 based on the number of the zone controllers.
- 1 13. The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising
2 computer code for adding additional agents coupled to the host controllers.
- 1 14. The computer program product as recited in claim 13, and further comprising
2 computer code for adjusting the reoccurring fee based on the number of
3 additional agents.
- 1 15. The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising
2 computer code for charging the user the recurring fee.
- 1 16. The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising
2 computer code for charging the user the recurring fee utilizing a network.
- 1 17. A system for charging for network analysis, comprising:
2 (a) logic for collecting network traffic information utilizing a plurality of agents;
3 (b) logic for consolidating the network traffic information utilizing a plurality of
4 host controllers coupled to the agents;
5 (c) logic for reporting on the network traffic information to a user utilizing a
6 plurality of zone controllers coupled to the host controllers; and
7 (d) logic for determining a reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on a
8 number of at least one of the agents, the host controllers, and the zone
9 controllers.

- 1 18. The system as recited in claim 17, and further comprising logic for determining
2 the reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on the number of the
3 agents.

- 1 19. The system as recited in claim 17, and further comprising logic for determining
2 the reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on the number of the host
3 controllers.

- 1 20. The system as recited in claim 17, and further comprising logic for determining
2 the reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on the number of the
3 zone controllers.

- 1 21. The system as recited in claim 17, and further comprising logic for adding
2 additional agents coupled to the host controllers.

- 1 22. The system as recited in claim 21, and further comprising logic for adjusting the
2 reoccurring fee based on the number of additional agents.

- 1 23. The system as recited in claim 17, and further comprising logic for charging the
2 user the recurring fee.

- 1 24. The system as recited in claim 17, and further comprising logic for charging the
2 user the recurring fee utilizing a network.

- 1 25. A method for charging for network analysis, comprising:
 - 2 (a) collecting network traffic information utilizing a plurality of agents;
 - 3 (b) consolidating the network traffic information utilizing a plurality of host
4 controllers coupled to the agents;

- 5 (c) reporting on the network traffic information to a user utilizing a plurality of zone
- 6 controllers coupled to the host controllers;
- 7 (d) determining a reoccurring fee associated with the reporting based on a number of
- 8 the agents, the host controllers, and the zone controllers; and
- 9 (e) charging the user the recurring fee.